Silchar-Jiribam Rail Line

* 362. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of conversion of Silchar-Jiribam metre gauge rail line into broad-gauge would start; and

(b) whether Government would also take up the survey work of Jiribam to Imphal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The gauge conversion of Silchar-Jiribam has been approved as a part of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar project. The work would be taken up once Lumding-Silchar is in advanced stage of completion, which will depend on availability of resources.

(b) The survey for new line form Jiribam to Imphal has already been included in the budget 2001-02.

Forest projects in Madhya Pradesh

† *363. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a forest project in Madhya Pradesh was started by taking loan form the World Bank; if so, the details of the project, the cost thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) whether this project has been implemented in Chhattisgarh also and the share of loan to be borne by that State; and

(c) if so, the details of amount spent and the quantum of work done in Chhattisgarh before division of Madhaya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) A World Bank assisted forestry project was implemented in Madhya Pradesh from 1995-96 to 1999-2000. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 245.79 crores as against which an expenditure of Rs. 255.41 crores was incurred. The main

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.